

**REMARKS**

The examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over a published patent application No. 2002/0029417 to Walker, U.S. patent no. 5,787,523 to Lindberg and U.S. patent no. 6,874,176 to Berge. The examiner stated that Walker discloses the claimed invention except for a draw sheet having a frictionless lower side, except for a support sheet having a frictionless upper surface and except some of the specific steps to turn the patient. It is respectfully noted that these exceptions represent the essence of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Lindberg does not teach that "low friction" means substantially frictionless. To put it differently, Lindberg only teaches that zero is a low number; Lindberg does not teach that the term "low number" *means* zero. Therefore, Lindberg does not teach anything about what Walker meant when it taught that the bottom side of the draw sheet can be silk or another low friction material. Walker does not teach that the underside of the draw sheet is substantially frictionless only that it is a low friction material. It appears that the underside of the draw sheet in Walker is not substantially frictionless. Accordingly, the prior art does not teach the use of the combination of a frictionless underside of a draw sheet used in tandem with a frictionless upper side of a support sheet to reposition patients on a bed.

With respect to the specific steps to turn the patient, the examiner stated that the Patent Office "takes the position" that the specific steps to turn the patient are "common every day practices and procedures that are taught to nurses, caregivers and handlers in order to prevent injuries to themselves as well as the patient". The examiner cited no

evidence or prior art for this conclusion.

Applicant disagrees that these are common every day practices taught to nurses and caregivers. Applicant is in the process of obtaining formal evidence contradicting this position. Pursuant to MPEP section 2144.03, Applicant requests the evidence on which the examiner relied in stating that these are everyday practices.

Applicant believes strongly and is obtaining formal evidence to support the fact that the lunge position, the horizontal direction of the pull and the placing of palms facing up are each unique practices not used by caregivers in the context of repositioning patients. These three steps are claimed in independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 13.

The examiner also objected to claims 3, 7, 11 and 15 due to informalities. To meet the examiner's objection, appropriate correction to these claims was made in that a period was added to the end of these claims.

Furthermore, new claims 17-20 have been added. Claims 17-20 are dependent claims that are dependent on independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 respectively. Claims 17 and 19-20 recite that the substantially frictionless lower surface of the draw sheet and the substantially frictionless upper surface of the support sheet are each made of 86 pic nylon taffeta, which has been shown, according to the specification, to be particularly effective when using the method of the present invention. Similarly, claim 18 recites that the substantially frictionless lower surface of the draw sheet is made of 86 pic nylon taffeta.

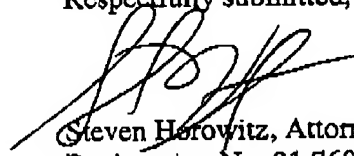
Based on the above arguments and new claims, the foregoing amendments which are understood to meet the examiner's objection, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is submitted to be appropriate and is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and it is requested that they be allowed.

Payment of \$225 for a response with the first month is provided through a credit card authorization form accompanying this amendment.

Dated: November 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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